

Sonoma Water Government Affairs Report – October 7, 2024

Federal Priorities Survey

ACWA's Federal Relations team is introducing a pilot initiative to more closely formulate ACWA's federal priorities. Specifically, a survey will request information regarding issues, funding, and agency relations, among other things, important to ACWA members. The survey will open on October 15 and a link to complete the survey will be circulated to voting members of the Federal Affairs Committee on this date. The deadline to complete the survey and record results is November 15. If you are not a voting member of the Federal Affairs Committee but would still like to have your perspective considered you can speak with your regional rep to the Committee, reach out to Ian (ianl@acwa.com) and Caleb (calebr@acwa.com) in the ACWA DC office, or attend the next Federal Affairs Committee meeting scheduled for December 3rd during ACWA's Fall Conference.

A PDF of the draft survey is attached. Please note this is not a solicitation for survey responses. We are sharing the survey for information purposes as we request your input before the survey launches. Questions about the survey we would like you to consider include: Is there an issue that is important to you that is not represented in the survey? Are the questions clear? Are there items that should be added or removed from the survey? Please share this survey with your ACWA network and let us know of any feedback by October 11.

Results of the survey will be presented and discussed during ACWA's next Federal Affairs meeting scheduled for December 3rd at ACWA's Fall Conference and Expo. Survey results will not solely determine ACWA's priorities but will provide important information and help guide ACWA and the Federal Affairs Committee as it works to develop federal priorities for 2025.

U.S. EPA regulations under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

ACWA's Federal Relations team is putting together a workgroup to comment on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations under TSCA for vinyl chloride and DINP, which are both used in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. The workgroup meeting will take place on October 7 at 11:00am Pacific. If you are interested in participating in this workgroup, please let us know by October 6 and we will send you a meeting invite link. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would still like to provide input, please contact Caleb Raspler at calebr@acwa.com.

On 7/25/24, EPA released a proposal to [designate five chemical compounds as High-Priority Substances for risk evaluation pursuant to TSCA](#). One of the compounds is vinyl chloride (CASRN 75-01-4). Vinyl chloride is used in the manufacture of PVC pipes which are often used for water supply. Comments are due on 10/23/24.

On 9/3/24, EPA [announced the availability of a draft risk evaluation](#) for di-isononyl phthalate (DINP) (1,2-Benzene- dicarboxylic acid, 1,2- diisononyl ester) (CASRN 28553-12-0). DINP is used as a plasticizer in PVC pipes which are often used for water supply. Comments are due on 11/4/24.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental Justice Strategic Plan

ACWA [filed comments](#) on USACE's Draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan following USACE's request for input. USACE stated its Plan will guide how it integrates environmental justice principles into its Civil Works programs. In its comments, ACWA expressed support for addressing environmental justice issues and noted the importance of balancing these efforts with the need to develop and maintain water infrastructure. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on ACWA's draft comments.



2025-2026 ACWA Federal Priorities Survey

Make your voice heard! Take a moment to complete ACWA's Federal Priorities Survey. As a representative for California public water agencies, ACWA wants to hear what you believe are the most important policy issues.

ACWA works with regions, government officials, regulatory bodies, and more to advance policies critical to its members. The purpose of this short survey is to formulate ACWA's federal priorities for the 119th Congress (2025-2026).

Please read all questions carefully. Thank you in advance for your responses!

* 1. What Region are you a member of?

2. What agency do you represent?

* 3. How important is water policy to you, personally?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not so important
- Not at all important

* 4. How important is water policy to you, professionally?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not so important
- Not at all important

* 5. Please rank the following issues based on importance to the industry, with #1 being the most important (arrange the issues using either the arrows or the click-and-drag feature)

- Agriculture
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Cultural and Historic Preservation
- Drought
- Energy Efficiency
- Equity and Environmental Justice
- Headwaters/Forest Health
- Parks and Recreation
- Public and Community Engagement
- Residential Development
- Urban Development
- Water Quality
- Water Supply

* 6. From the following list of policy issues, please select your top 5 issues based on importance to your employment (with #1 being the most important)

	1	2	3	4	5
Agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biodiversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate Change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural and Historic Preservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drought	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy Efficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equity and Environmental Justice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Headwaters/Forest Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks and Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public and Community Engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water Quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water Supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 7. Is there an issue important to you that was not included in the list above?

No

Yes (please specify)

* 8. Some public projects utilize external funding. Please select all federal programs that help fund your projects:

EPA Clean Water State Revolving Funds

EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

EPA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

EPA State Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants

BOR WaterSMART grants

BOR Title XVI

DOI Safety of Dams

DOI Forest Health/Wildfire Mitigation Funding

FEMA Public Assistance

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance

HUD Community Block Grants

- USDA Forest Health/Wildfire Mitigation Funding
- US Army Corps of Engineers Assistance
- Other (please specify)

* 9. Were you awarded congressionally directed spending (CDS)?

- No, I was not awarded CDS
- Yes, I was awarded CDS and received the funds
- Yes, I was awarded CDS but have not received the funds yet
- If yes, please specify the funding agency (EPA, USACE, etc.)

* 10. Were you awarded other federal funding?

- No, I was not awarded other federal funding
- Yes, I was awarded other federal funding and received the funds
- Yes, I was awarded other federal funding but have not received the funds yet
- If yes, please specify the funding agency (EPA, USACE, etc.)

* 11. What projects do you typically work on?

- Rural
- Urban
- Small-scale
- Large-scale
- Agricultural Irrigation
- Municipal Water Supply
- Other (please specify)

* 12. Which members of the United States Congress do you work with most often?

* 13. Which members of the United States Congress have been among the best advocates for you on water policy?

* 14. Do you have a federal advocate?

No

Yes (please specify)

15. Do you have any additional information to share?

Done

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